(c) what is the average occupancy rate in the 5-Star public sector hotels at present and how does it compare with that in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Attacks on the Capitals of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana by the Security Forces of South African Regime

237. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South African securiy forces have recently carried out raids in the capitals of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana; if so, what were the casualities ;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto and what is the outcome of the efforts made by the Government of India in this regard through the Common Wealth Organisation;

(c) whether India has taken any action in the matter being the Chairman of NAM; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) On the morning of 19th May, 1986, South African security forces carried out armed attacks on Harare, Gaborone, and Lusaka, the capitals of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia. The raids on Harare and Gaborone were made by ground forces and helicopters and the one on Lusaka by the South African Air Force. Two persons in Lusaka and one in Gaborone are reported to have been killed and a few persons are reported to have been wounded. Several buildings were damaged in the attacks on the three capitals.

(b) to (d) The Government of India views this aggression as part of the South African racist regime's attempts to destabilitise neighbouring sovereign states on the pretext of pre-empting attacks on it by Liberation Movements. Government also sees the attacks as a thinly-veiled act of intimidation of Zimbabwe which is to host the next Non-Aligned Summit. India, at the request of the African Frontline States, convened an urgent meeting of the Non-Aligned Coordinating Bureau at New York on 22nd May which condemned the attacks and called for comprehensive mandatory sanctions. India also participated in the UN Security Council discussions on the issue. A Non-Aligned Resolution calling for mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria Regime was vetoed by USA and UK. Need for action by the internationl community against the Government of South Africa for its acts of repression against the majority community of South Africa and its acts of aggression against its neighbours will be the main subject of discussion at the forthcoming limited meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in London. It will also be given serious consideration at the Non-Aligned ummit at Harare.

Dissociation from Commonwealth

238. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to quit Commonwealth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the decision has been influenced by Britain's refusal to accept sanctions against South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI K. P. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Attacks on Tamils in Sri Lanka

239. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any note of the increased attacks on innocent men, women and children belonging to ethnic minority in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Sri Lanka is seeking the help of foreign powers to suppress the Tamils;

(c) whether the Government of India have issued any warning to foreign powers for their aiding the Sri Lanka Government against their aggression on Tamil people; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. Government are aware of and are seriously concerned about the continuing violence directed against civilians, particularly ethnic Tamil civilians living in the Northern and Eastern provinces, by the Sri Lankan security forces.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has conveyed to the countries aiding Sri Lanka their concern at the danger of such aid encouraging attempts at a military solution to the ethnic problem.

US Policy towards Second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty

240. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the US decision to disregard the Second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty; and

(b) if so, how Government view the decision of the US Government in the context of the resultant arms race endangering world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the US President's announcement of May 27, 1986 that the US would not in the future be bound by SALT II ceilings while making decisions regarding strategic force structure. Government are concerned at escalation in the nucleaar arms race that may take place as a result of this decision.

Strike in Textile Industry

241. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 30,000 workers of the textile industry in the Capital have gone on strike indefinitely; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the grievances of the workers; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) About 20,000 textile workers of Delhi have gone on an indefinite strike from 28.5.1986 over a charter of demands which include, among others, an interim relief of Rs. 100 per month pending wage revision, neutralisation of Dearness Allowance at 100 per cent, House Rent Allowance, regularisation of Badli, Casual and Temporary workers, reinstatement of workers who have been dismissed/suspended since 1979 and withdrawal of police cases filed against workmen from 1979 onwards. The matter was taken in conciliation by the Delhi Administration and a number of proceedings were held by the Conciliation Officers and the Labour Commissioner, Delhi with the textile managements and the Unions. As conciliation failed, a series of meetings were held with the parties, firstly by the Executive Councillor (Health) and then by the Lt. Governor, Delhi to explore the ways of reaching a settlement. In these discussions, the managements agreed to consider the demand for interim relief